



the Inside Scoop...of OJJ

Mission:

The Office of Juvenile Justice protects the public by providing safe and effective individualized services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens.



Dr. Mary L. Livers, Deputy Secretary

I was reading Chef Sonnier's Recipe of the Month column and noted that he asks where the time is going, with Mardi Gras already past. The year has just barely begun and already it's flying by. Easter is around the corner – can the legislative session be far behind?

It's always such a pleasure for me to read *The Inside Scoop* and see what's going on all over the state. I'm never disappointed – there's always good news about what's going on in our work world and in our personal lives. What an inspiration it is to read about staff who routinely go above and beyond the call of duty to help our kids succeed – it's almost a regular thing to hear that staff dig into their own pockets to help a kid, like the Swanson staff did, on page 23. It never fails – when a need arises you all rise to the occasion. Your efforts give rise to the message of hope from one of our youth, also on page 23. You are such an inspiration.

Lately I have taken to calling OJJ **The Little Giant** because that is what and who we are. We are a tiny state agency but our people have the biggest hearts and we, as a team, get the job done in a mighty way. You are shaping the future leaders of our state, not just through court orders for kids, but by your example. OJJ, you rock!

"Doc"

Dr. Mary L. Livers

The Daily Motivator

Look forward

Don't base your attitude on what you've already experienced in the past. Choose your attitude based on what you would most like to experience in the future.

The way you decide to see the world determines what kind of world you see. Decide to see, and to live in, the very best world you can imagine.

Don't waste a lot of time complaining about what has already happened. Put your time and energy into envisioning and planning and acting to create the life you truly wish to live.

Look forward with eager anticipation, see life at its best, and smile about what you see. What's ahead is what counts, because that's what you have the opportunity to choose right now.

There's never any reason to be discouraged. No matter where you are or where you've been, you can choose a positive future for yourself.

Look forward, and see the positive possibilities. Look forward, and step decisively toward the best of them. – Ralph Marston



"I wandered lonely as a cloud..." Well, not really, but I did find a surprise lurking beneath the lemon grass in the herb/flower bed!"
Susan Taylor – BCCY Staff Development Specialist, on her Ponchatoula garden.

Staff Spotlight

Spotlight on...

Nancy Gautreau, LCSW, BACS, ACSW, Community-Based Services Program Manager

Nancy Gautreau

looks back over an extraordinary career in Louisiana corrections and wouldn't change a thing. She has 35 years of experience under her belt, a handful of national and



local accolades for her work, and an impressive array of letters behind her name, but she's down-to-earth, witty and fun to be around, all the while getting the job done. And now, Nancy has decided to hang up her shingle and go home. When she retires April 1, it will be the first time since she was a college student that Nancy will not be spending her days taking care of people.

"Nancy is a one of a kind," said **Deputy Assistant Secretary for Community-Based Services Carolyn Lewis**. "She can be correctly characterized as caring, capable, considerate, confident, confidante, comforting, full of joy and simply nice to be around. Everyone in Community Based Services relies on Nancy for a wealth of services and support. Nancy is always the first to give when there is a need and will come back several times to see if more is needed. Nancy also volunteers and will take the most challenging assignments to let her colleagues have the less challenging assignments. One may ask, why does Nancy do this? As one CBS staff person said 'Nancy is Nun material.' That says it all."

"Our paths crossed back in undergraduate school at LSU," said **Deputy Secretary Dr.**

Mary Livers. “Several years later, we re-connected and discovered we were both in the field of corrections. I can tell you that Nancy has made so many contributions to the people she has worked with – inmates and youth. She has made a positive difference wherever she has been and wherever she worked. I know Nancy will continue to do the same during her retirement.”

Nancy began her career in corrections in 1976 with a brand new bachelor's degree in sociology from LSU. At age 22, she signed on as a corrections officer at Jetson Center for Youth (then known as LTI). Not long after, she transferred to the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women (LCIW) in St. Gabriel, where she served in security for a short period, and as classifications chief in charge of records, visitors, jobs for inmates, and a host of other tasks. Six years later with a new MSW on her resume', Nancy transferred to Elayn Hunt Correctional Center in St. Gabriel, where she spent the next 20 years in adult male corrections.

“In 1998 Nancy was named ACA Best in the Business.”

At Hunt, Nancy worked her way up from social worker to assistant warden and mental health director of the facility, concurrently serving as mental health administrator and policy advisor to the Secretary of Corrections, for the entire department, encompassing both adult and juvenile.

In 1998 during her tenure at Hunt, Nancy was named ACA Best in the Business, one of 12 chosen out of a field of 80 nominated nationwide. She was cited for going above and beyond the call of duty by showing extraordinary leadership abilities as mental health director at Hunt. Nancy also spearheaded enhancement of the suicide prevention programs at Hunt, resulting in the prison being recognized by the National Institute of Corrections as having one of the nation's most outstanding suicide prevention

programs. Nancy was asked to conduct a presentation on suicide prevention along with institutional violence at the National Violence Prevention Conference in Iowa. In 1998, the Louisiana Legislature passed a resolution commending Nancy for her accomplishments.

Her career came full circle, when the call came to leave the adult field and return to the juvenile realm: Nancy accepted a position as a school social worker at Jetson, under the auspices of SSD1 within the Department of Education.

“Nancy has left her mark on the entire agency...”

She transferred to OJJ in 2005, remaining at Jetson as a training and staff development specialist. Four years later, Nancy moved to Community-Based Services at central office, where as a program manager, she assists in overseeing social services, training, and serves as the OJJ representative on the Interagency Service Coordination committee that deal with statewide difficult case staffings. In addition, Nancy has touched almost every program and initiative within the agency.

She worked on development of the LAMOD program for secure care, and trained a host of secure care staff in the program, as well as non-secure contract providers' employees.

Nancy has left her mark on the entire agency, having authored the Service Coordination curriculum, the far-reaching reform program that changed the way OJJ does business. The service coordination manual comprises 22 modules and was rolled out in 2006. “Service coordination introduced single case management to OJJ,” Nancy noted. “Research shows this is the premier way to treat juveniles – one worker handling each case from beginning to end. We provided training and cross training so our staff from the bottom up and top down know service coordination.”

Nancy conducted extensive research into best practices around the nation, in order to see what other states were doing. OJJ was assisted in the research by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Casey Strategic Consulting Group, which provided technical assistance and information about what was going on in other states. "We got bits and pieces from all over," Nancy said. "We pulled it together and created our own program."

"We can teach the kids to be the best they can be when they feel safe, secure, respected and cared for."

Although introduced in 2006, it took until 2009 to get OJJ staff around the state trained. "Everyone had to learn it," Nancy said. "All the probation and parole officers, the supervisors, the regional managers. Then we had to train the secure care staff. As with any new thing, there was a lot of resistance to the change. Few people really wanted to do things differently. But now, all the regional managers and PPOs have embraced service coordination, and we get overall positive feedback. The PPOs know that they are going to be with the kids on their caseloads no matter where they are. This is a very important component in regionalization."

"Service coordination also lowered the caseload for PPOs, and allows the officers to build a level of trust with families," Nancy said. "Families often need help, as well as the youth. The PPOs are brokers of services in the community, and they also provide reunification of the youth with the family."

"Service coordination changed the way we do business, and the big winner is the kid."

"Service coordination changed the way we do business, and the big winner is the kid," Nancy went on. "We can teach the kids to be the best they can be when they feel safe, secure, respected and cared for."

The change from adult to juvenile services was immense. "I was coming from an extremely controlled and orderly environment," Nancy said. "Everything at an adult prison is organized and regimented, and there is a bureaucracy. As mental health administrator for the Department of Corrections I had visited all the prisons, including the juvenile facilities. I came into an environment that is very different, much more relaxed, and not nearly as structured. The client base changes rapidly at a juvenile facility, and you are dealing with a very different population. There is a different mindset. With kids, it's very different – we have a therapeutic community, and kids are so amenable to rehabilitation."

"The best thing I ever did was to embrace both systems."

"I was able to make the adjustment to juvenile because I had had the opportunity to work with the juvenile mental health directors and facility wardens," Nancy went on. "The best thing I ever did was to embrace both systems."

Nancy not only embraced the juvenile system, she meets the OJJ mission as naturally as breathing.

Born in California on a military base, Nancy lived in San Francisco briefly before moving to her mother's home town of Boston. At the age of ten, Nancy moved with her family to Louisiana, and she considers Baton Rouge her home. She is a graduate of East Ascension Senior High School in Gonzales. With a sister and four brothers, she comes from a large and close family. Her brothers all live in

this area, and her sister lives in Pennsylvania. Their parents continue to reside in Gonzales.

Nancy is a voracious reader, and her passion for travel has taken her all over the country to visit friends and relatives. "I love the water – the ocean – and lighthouses. I always go the coast when I'm in California, and I like to visit Massachusetts and the Jersey shore. I've just always loved the water."

"I love good music, I go to a lot of concerts and I almost never miss a play," Nancy said. "I absolutely love plays, especially musicals," she said. "I love to be entertained, and I love to see someone in a role outside themselves. It's fascinating to see people create a persona." She even starred in a Gonzales Little Theatre play, as the female lead, a while back.

"I love spending time with friends; people are just so interesting," Nancy said. "When you're with friends, you never know what you are going to hear and talk about."

Nancy is also devoted to her dog, Riley, a blue heeler/border collie/shepherd mix that she adopted in 2000 from veterinarian Dr. Tim Armstrong. "She is a great watchdog, and she's my heart," Nancy said.



Nancy says she has big plans for her retirement. "First, I plan to strengthen my faith in God," she said. "I intend to spend more time with family and friends and my beloved dog Riley. I'm going to travel more. I'm going to volunteer for more work with my church. I'm also going to work on my health – I'm going to exercise and get more rest."

Not one to be idle for long, Nancy just might return to the workforce at some point. "If I return to work, I'd like to work in the area of chemical dependency and substance abuse."

"When I think about the 35 years I've been working, the person who had the most impact on my career was certainly Hunt Warden C. Marty Lensing," Nancy said. "He was my inspiration, both personal and professional. He was my colleague and my friend, and I learned so much from him about the corrections profession - management, administration, security."

"Every day has been a learning experience for me," Nancy said. "I've learned from the people I've met and the experiences I've had. I've had a massive responsibility and done a massive amount of work. My hope is that I've helped people. If I've touched just one life, that is enough, that's all that matters to me."

"I wouldn't change a thing."

CQIS POLICY UPDATES

Approved:

- A.1.5 Channels of Communication 1/10/12
- A.2.19 Special Agents (Commissioned Probation and Parole-Juvenile Officer) 1/18/12
- A.3.16 State Liability Travel Card 1/8/12
- A.5.11 Video Conferencing 1/31/12
- C.1.1 Death of Youth in Custody, Autopsies and Burial Expenses 1/6/12
- C.1.4 Attorney Visits 1/6/12
- D.1.5 Cooperation with Other Agencies 1/4/12
- D.1.8 Mandatory Reviews 1/4/12
- D.9.1 Placement of Youth in Residential Facilities 1/7/12
- D.9.10 Placement in Psychiatric Facilities 1/4/12
- D.10.7 Probation and Parole Supervision 1/7/12
- D.10-11 Transporting Youth by Community-Based Services 1/4/12

D.10.27 Searches of Youth-Community-Based Services 1/18/12

D.10.34 Pending Secure and Non-Secure Placement – Provision of Services While in Detention 1/31/12

DYS Policies Rescinded:

- 1.5 Cooperation with Other Agencies
- 1.8 Mandatory Reviews
- 8.3 Emergency Placement of Juveniles
- 9.10 Placement In Psychiatric Facilities
- 10.8 Availability of Services
- 10.11 Transporting Youth
- 10.14 Metal Scanning Devices
- 10.24 Availability of Community Services
- 10.27 Search of Juveniles

HR Director Gwen Jones Receives Dunbar Award for Exceptional Service

Human Resources Director Gwen Jones, who retired last month, went out with incredible style. She was one of 12 recipients of the annual **Charles E. Dunbar Jr. Career Service Award**, presented by the Louisiana Civil Service League, to employees in a classified merit system who have distinguished themselves by service over and above the call of duty.



The award is named for the founder of the league and co-author of the original Civil Service Law in Louisiana. More than 800 state and local classified civil service employees have been honored with the award since its inception in 1958.

“Gwen Jones brought her deep faith, steadfast personal values and concern for people to her work as Director of Human Resources for the Office of Juvenile Justice,” said **Dr. Livers**. “Gwen impressed upon job applicants the

need for good role models for our youth and showed them how they can impact the lives of our youth. She told them that employment with OJJ can be a life-changing experience for both employees and youth, and that working with delinquent youth is an honorable undertaking. Gwen exemplifies OJJ’s philosophy that there is no greater career than public service.”

“Gwen has always instilled a sense of ethics in her staff. This is an integral part of who she is: a servant leader,” Dr. Livers continued. “She lives by OJJ’s leadership philosophy of setting a good example and modeling the way that leaders should behave.”

Gwen insisted that her staff treat people the way they themselves want to be treated, and handle employees’ human resources affairs in a confidential manner. She expected her staff to keep foremost in their minds that they should always do the best job possible for the employees they serve. Over the years, a number of people that Gwen has mentored have gone on to become Human Resources Directors in other agencies, carrying on the philosophy of public service.

Gwen managed several layoffs at OJJ. She was asked to provide services to impacted staff in a large layoff several years ago. She took the initiative to put together an off-site, week-long program for affected employees, that included mental health counseling, job counseling and assistance in job searches from the LA Office of Workforce Development, information on retirement, insurance and COBRA benefits and applying for Unemployment Insurance. She attended the program each day to personally counsel and mentor laid-off staff. In addition, she personally counseled with staff members who remained, who demonstrated a sense of “survivors’ guilt.”

When she worked at DCFS (then DSS) in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Gwen’s telephone number on the agency’s website became the point of contact for employees

(DSS and other agencies) displaced by the hurricane. Among her recommendations to management was extension of furloughs rather than termination of displaced staff.

She soon was working 18 hour days, assisting staff and their family members who had re-located all over the country, in job-related as well as personal matters. She took the initiative to handle requests personally rather than refer people to other agencies.

This turned into a round-the-clock task with people calling Gwen's direct line from 5:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. Gwen described that experience as the roughest time in her state career. She served callers not just as the HR director, but also as a mentor, spiritual counselor and prayer partner.

Gwen has been active in several professional organizations: the Society for Human Resources Management, the LA State Personnel Council, the HR Managers' Association and the National Association of Personnel Executives. She is a longtime member of the Zodiac Civic and Social Organization, providing services to needy people.

In 10 years of service as her church's Director of Youth Ministries, Gwen taught Sunday School and directed the youth choir and Vacation Bible School. Currently a member of Elm Grove Baptist Church, she serves as VBS instructor, member of the Mass Choir, the Praise Team, and the team that serves meals to the homeless and needy every Saturday.

Gwen also assists in her husband's formal ministry, "To the Least of These," which provides Bible study and quality time with residents of nursing homes and rehabilitation facilities. She cares fulltime for her brother, who suffered a crippling aneurysm, and as occasional caregiver for other people in need. Expect that Gwen will be doing more of these activities, now that she is a "lady of leisure."



Gwen says farewell!

Certification Class Held for New Safe Crisis Management Instructors

By Fran Martin, Director of Staff Development



Front row: Damon Deal, BCCY; Tiffany Foshee, Ware Youth Center; Stephanie Cockerm, SCY; Udina Cook, BCCY. Middle row: Fran Martin, Staff Development Director; Loretta Taylor, BCCY; Leticia Green, BCCY; Mark Matthews, Harmony; Malachi Gee, JCY; Willie Hill, SCY. Back row: Germaine Simon, SCY; William Lee, SCY; Derrick Anderson, JCY; Billye Miller, SCY; Daniel Simmons, BCCY; Jerome Flint, JKM, Inc. Instructor. Not pictured: Darryl Henderon, Harmony and Joseph Robins, JCY.

Safe Crisis Management (SCM) is the use-of-force technique in use at the secure care facilities and contracted residential facilities to control mild to extreme disruptive behaviors.

Safe Crisis Management New Instructor Certification training was held in January at

the Baton Rouge City Police Training Academy. The certification class was taught by Jerome Flint, SCM Master Instructor, who has worked with OJJ for the past two years.

Thirteen new OJJ SCM instructors were certified, as well as two instructors from Harmony Center in Baton Rouge and one from Ware Youth Center. Two OJJ SCM instructors attended for two of the five days to satisfy their recertification requirements.

The new instructors all did a terrific job during the week of training, and with their practice teaching sessions in SCM theory and physical techniques. New SCM instructors will begin co-training SCM with experienced instructors during 2012 pre-service and in-service classes.

The following staff were awarded certificates as certified SCM instructors: **BCCY: Udina Cook, Damon Deal, Leticia Green, Daniel Simmons and Loretta Taylor. JCY: Derrick Anderson, Malachi Gee, and Joseph Robins; Reginald Robinson** for recertification. **SCY: Stephanie Cockern, Willie Hill, William Lee, Billye Miller and Germaine Simon; Vernon Foy** for recertification. **Community-Based Programs: Harmony Center: Darryl Henderson and Mark Matthews; Ware Center: Tiffany Foshee.**



The class working on SCM exercises.

Colonel Louis Hyatt and Lt. Colonel Chad Wells of Investigative Services met with the trainers to discuss the Use of Interventions policy (C.2.6) and other SCM issues. The video of the discussion is posted on SharePoint for instructor use during training sessions.

Alexandria Regional Office

Congratulations

Congratulations to **PPO3 Lori Johnson**, who was married on February 4 to **Joshua Mayeux**.

The staff wishes the newlyweds many happy years of marriage.



PPO1 Mekensie Maxwell, completed 40 hours of PPCT provided by Instructor Heath Wallace.

Baton Rouge Regional Office

The Baton Rouge office was busy moving to our temporary office spaces, while our old building is being renovated. The moving experience was truly that, an experience.... boxes upon boxes filling our halls, sorting and storing old things, deciding what to keep and what to shred, taking down shelves, and don't let me forget the fiasco called moving the armory!!!

We probably shouldn't even mention the armory move again... it was quite a busy day/night. The movers worked really hard to get our things in their proper places as quickly as possible even with the elevator going out, and the locations of things changing on the fly.

It sounds chaotic but as with all things at Baton Rouge OJJ we did what needed to be done and got the job done. Although we don't have our own spaces we are making the situation work. Hopefully the construction will remain on target and we will be in our

new spaces before long. In the meantime we will continue to enjoy the company of our new suite mates.



Left, Keelen Robinson taking down shelves. Right, Brandon Woods and Larry Aaron packing up the armory.

Congratulations

We are so proud of **PPO Brandon Woods!** Brandon earned a Masters of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Virginia College. He was also honored for having the highest GPA in the class with a 4.0! Congratulations, Brandon, we are so proud of you!

Employee of the Month

Congratulations to **PPO Elois Nelson**, who was elected Employee of the Month. Elois was acknowledged by her coworkers for being extremely well organized and prepared for everything. She is very dedicated to her clients and to making sure that they receive the best services possible. Congratulations, Elois, and thanks for your awesome service to the youth you serve.

Welcome Aboard

We would like to welcome our newest employee, **PPO Telisha Johnson**, to the OJJ staff. Telisha comes to OJJ from the Louisiana Correctional Institute for Women. Welcome aboard, Telisha, and we hope that you enjoy your new role as a Probation and Parole Officer in the great Baton Rouge OJJ office.

We See You, and You're Looking Good

SSC Jennifer Anderson and **PPO Patsy Adams** teamed up in the spirit of giving to supply space heaters to a family that was using their oven to heat their home. Thanks to Jennifer and Patsy for looking out for the families we serve at all times. We see you, and you ladies are looking good!

Happy Birthday

We would like to send out an extra special happy birthday shout-out to **PPO Marina Jenkins**, **PPO Keelen Robinson**, **TO Jason Jones**, **SSC Jennifer Anderson**, **PPO Steven Dukes** and **PPO Tina Roach**. Happy Birthday, and we wish you many, many more!

Bridge City Center for Youth

Congratulations

Juvenile Justice Specialist 3 Bonnie St. Germain has retired with 18 years of service. We wish her well in the new chapter in her life.

SW Sam McKay Receives Licensure

Social Worker 7 Sam McKay recently received his Licensure for Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Sam has over 18 years experience as a Social Worker and has been employed with BCCY since 2009. Sam's



commitment to social service here at BCCY contributes to the building of healthy youth that will maximize their human potential and to promote social and economic justice through excellence and distinctiveness in teaching and learning, research and scholarship, service and outreach.

Special Employee Parking Spaces

Congratulations to **Administrative Coordinator Alana Burke** and **Juvenile Justice Specialist Gilbert Lofton**. Their names were drawn to win the much coveted employee special parking spaces for this term.



Gilbert Lofton, left, Alana Burke, right.

Welcome

BCCY Welcomes New Food Manager



Priscilla Llopis is the new Food Manager for BCCY. Mrs. Llopis comes to us with a combination of experience in working with youth and over 10 years experience in the dietary field.

She is currently working on her Executive Master Health Care Management degree from the University of New Orleans. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in nutrition from Nicholls State University and an Associate of Science degree in business from Delgado Community College.

We are proud to have Priscilla join the Bridge City family, and it doesn't hurt that she makes some of the best homemade biscuits in town. Our youth are in for a treat.

BCCY Welcomes New Administrative Coordinator

Donyale Andrews is our new administrative coordinator, working with to the Social Service Department. They are elated to have her on board.



New LAMOD Class



Pictured is the new orientation class. We welcome our new co-workers.



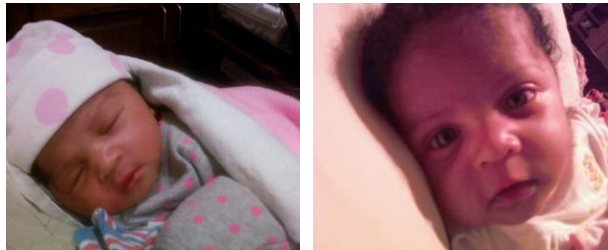
Japanese Magnolia in Port Hudson.

Central Office

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to **CQIS Administrative Program Director Lynne Geromini**, on the recent loss of her grandmother. Please keep Lynne and her family in your thoughts and prayers.

Congratulations



Community Based Services' **Program Coordinator Laquelia "Keeya" Smith**, her husband and daughter welcomed their new baby girl **Rhylee Jan'net Francois Smith**, on January 27, weighing 7 lbs., 11 oz. and 19.75 inches long. Mom and baby are doing great! Keeya says she is just getting used to the sleepless nights again.

CB Services hosted a baby shower for Keeya, pictured below, and central office staff made sure that Baby Rhylee will be very well dressed.



The IT Division hosted a baby shower for **IT Tech. Support Specialist Chris Allen**, whose new daughter, **Trinity Ayanna Marie Allen**, was born Feb. 16. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 7 oz. and was 19.5 inches long.

Farewell



We bid a fond farewell to **IT Applications Manager Sean Labat**, who left for a private sector position. Sean largely developed the JETS system, and he will be greatly missed.



*Camellia
"Debutante"
in Port
Hudson.*

United Way Drive Successful

This year OJJ raised \$2,473.59 for United Way, which included pledges and a jewelry show fundraiser. UW Chairwomen were Dr. Livers' assistant **Nita Franklin-Shanklin** and **Administrative Assistant Marvel Adams**. Below, **Dr. Livers** presents a check to United Way representative **Christine Haldane**. Looking on are, from left, **DAS Carolyn Lewis**, **General Counsel Martha Morgan**, **Adm. Asst. Marvel Adams** and **DAS Karen Stubbs**.



Left to right: St. John Parish Sheriff Elect Mike Tregre, Mr. Larry Sorapuru, Family Liaison Donna Bowie and Dr. Henry Hardy.

Community Volunteer Work

Nita Franklin-Shanklin, along with her cousin **Beverly Franklin**, volunteered at Northeast High School in Zachary for One Crew, One Love – One Community Day. Pictured is a newly painted mailbox. They also worked in the library and a classroom.



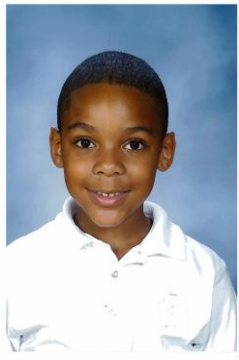
Faith Based Team Mentoring Initiative

Family Liaison Donna Bowie works with teams of individuals from faith based or community organizations, with the willingness to embrace a youth and the family. Teams provide support in many arenas to assist youth in reintegrating back into the home, the community and society.

Below is a photo from the Mentoring Initiative meeting held in LaPlace. Fifteen people from St. John the Baptist Parish and surrounding parishes have signed up to assist with this initiative.



OJJ Son Chosen for Award



Danny R. Woods II, a kindergarten student at Sacred Heart of Jesus School in Baton Rouge, was chosen as a Brotherhood/ Sisterhood Award Recipient. The Brotherhood/ Sisterhood Award represents a Sacred Heart student, chosen by their classmates, who exemplifies the values of integrity, trust, honesty, empathy and service both in and away from school. Danny is the son of **Danny** and **OJJ Attorney Revettea Woods**.

OJJ Daughter Selected for Who's Who



and plans to pursue a Ph.D.

Program Specialist Yezette White's daughter, Xzania Perzette White has been selected as one of Howard University's Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities 2011 - 2012. Xzania graduates in May



Pansies in Port Hudson.

Hammond Regional Office

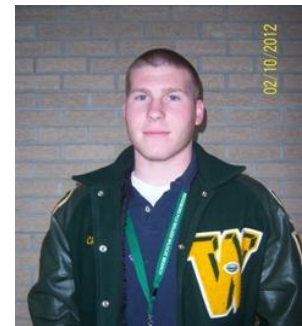
SUPERSTAR!

The Hammond OJJ Superstar for January is **PPO2 Denise Wall**. She was recognized by **PPO2 Jennifer Sirchia** for picking up a youth's jacket for her.

Youth Highlight

By **PPO Dana May** and **SSCIV Lori Wagner**

Chase B. came to OJJ in 2010. Since then, he has taken his probation very seriously, often completing his court ordered requirements ahead of schedule. Way to geaux Chase!!!



Chase has diligently worked hard to maintain his grades and improve his educational experience. He is a junior in high school and a member of his high school varsity football team, as well as the baseball team.

Chase is a shining example of the reason OJJ often stresses the involvement of pro-social activities. Chase earned his letter in football as a sophomore and was recently rewarded with his school jacket and letter. These accomplishments instill pride in Chase, as they should. He has now set his goals and future on college after finishing high school next year, although he has not decided on a curriculum of study; his focus is on completing the goal at hand, high school. Chase has a very bright future and with focused efforts, who knows? We may have a future LSU Tiger in the making. His efforts and skills are surely worthy of becoming a college sports player. Congratulations, Chase, on being a shining example of how OJJ can help motivate and drive your accomplishments.

Staff Highlight

By SSCIV Lori Wagner

PPO3 Renee Barrois is a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University with a BA in Criminal Justice. Renee was born in Slidell and raised in Lacombe, on the north shore.

She began working at the St. Tammany Parish Clerk of Court Office in the Juvenile and Child Support department. When asked her reasons for coming to OJJ, she immediately responded, "Back in 2007, I was sitting in court ready for another ho-hum day, and then a child, whom I later found out was 11 years old, walked in with handcuffs and shackles. That image is forever imprinted in my brain. I knew that day I had to get involved." This image had such a profound effect on Renee. She knew it was her calling to work with juveniles, helping keep other youth from experiencing the degradation of that situation.

It was at that moment Renee began to actively search a way to make that happen. During her time at the Clerk of Court's office, she came to know **PPO3 Mark Davis**. It was then she made her first contact with OJJ. As soon as she became aware of an opening at Office of Juvenile Justice, she jumped at the chance to become part of the team.

Renee came to OJJ in November 2008. Now her coworker, Mark describes Renee, saying "She can be very insightful and empathetic with the youth on her caseload, especially with home environment issues. This allows her to formulate a plan for their needs, beginning at home, which is often the precipitating factor as to why most of the youth come in contact with our agency."

Renee is the single mother of one son, **Devon**. Devon is 6 years old and "cute as a button" with his mom's blue eyes. Renee is a very devoted and insightful parent. She spends much of her time with Devon. They like hunting, whether wild boars or deer, both Renee and Devon enjoy spending the quality

time together. "It's the experiences with Devon that keep me happy," Renee states.

They are about to gain additions to their family, as Renee recently said "yes" to **her fiancée, Kelly**. He also adds two daughters to the family. They plan to wed in early May.

Renee aspires to continue her career as a PPO here at OJJ, continuing to impact adolescents through her insightfulness, kindness and empathy. Renee certainly strives to be the best she can which empowers others to reach their full potential.

Jetson Center for Youth

Staff Attend ACA Winter Conference

Three Jetson staff members attended the ACA Winter Conference: **Director Daron Brown**, **Acting Deputy Director Belinda Thomas**, who serves as Accreditation Manager, and **Pamela Poole, Health Service Administrator** with CCS, who together represented the facility before a Commission of Accreditation Panel Hearing. Director Brown gave a presentation on the facility dynamics, staff morale and overtime. The Commission had no questions, but made several positive comments about the facility. Jetson was formally awarded ACA Accreditation.



Belinda Thomas, center, accepts the ACA Accreditation documents from ACA officials.

First 2012 Class Graduates



Pre-service graduation class.

In February Jetson held a graduation for the first pre-service class for 2012. The graduation class consists of 14 JJS staff, one Dietician Manager and three SSD staff.

Prior to graduation the class enjoyed a feast prepared by one of the graduates who is also a caterer, **Mary Belezaire**. The meal included shrimp fettuccine, ham, meatballs, BBQ shrimp, roast beef and turkey sandwiches, green beans, yams, deviled eggs, dip, salad, peaches and even homemade hot rolls. Let's not forget dessert, a Berry Chantilly Cake from Whole Foods donated by **JJS Kelly Johnson**. The tables were covered with white linen tablecloths and draped with red sheer coverings. Soft background music set the tone for this enjoyable feast.

Once everyone enjoyed the feast, the graduation program started with the class reciting the Mission & Vision. Afterwards, we heard words of encouragement from classmates **Bradley Larry** and **Malachi Gee**, both of whom did an excellent job describing each classmate and our Staff Development instructors. They also emphasized the importance of what was taught in training and how they would utilize each and every course during their tour of duty. They reminded every classmate to take pride in their job and treat each youth and staff member with respect and kindness, embracing everyone's differences in a positive manner.

This graduating class was unique in having a class song, "Lean on Me," which was sung with pride and joy.

Words of encouragement to the class were expressed by **Director of Education Kim Mims**; **Wiley Brazier**, **Regional Director of SSD**; **Fouad Harb**, **Jetson LAMOD Coordinator**; **Joann King**, **Safety Officer**; **Kelly Johnson** and **Cherise Gougisha**, **Staff Development**.

Finally, Director Brown thanked each and every member of the staff and explained to them how important they were to the facility. He also explained to the graduation class "there will be good days and bad days" and encouraged them not to let one bad day change their minds about the facility and that he would be there for them. Each staff was presented with a LAMOD graduation certificate and a red chocolate rose.

Breakout Kings Cast Visit the Youth

The stars of the Breakout Kings TV show, which filmed at Jetson last fall, visited the youth and spent an evening listening, encouraging, sharing their own stories, and providing information on how anyone with the drive and desire to break into the entertainment industry can do so. The group was led by star **Serinda Swan**, and included **Brooke Nevin**, **Jimmi Simpson**, **Domenick Lombardozzi** and **Malcolm Goodwin**, along with Michael Taylor, their co-worker.



Serinda Swan, right, shares her story with youth.



From left, Domenick Lambardozzi, Serinda Swan, Jimmi Simpson, Malcolm Goodwin and Brooke Nevin of the Breakout Kings cast, addressing the Jetson youth.

Serinda is an Ambassador for a non-profit organization called Friends to Mankind, and travels the world to work with disadvantaged children. "Friends to Mankind is the chance we give ourselves to bring out the best of humanity," according to its website. "We are giving birth to a new way of thinking and acting that will give rise to a generation of children who will grow up with this new consciousness and inherit an Earth-conscious way of living and acting."

The youth opened up to the actors and actresses, who are working with other groups in the entertainment industry to provide educational materials and other items for the kids. Our heartfelt thanks go out to our new friends with the Breakout Kings cast for taking the time out of their hectic shooting schedule to spend time with our youth.



The youth circle up to for a visit from the Breakout Kings cast.

Lafayette/Opelousas Regional Office

News and Notes

PPO3 Mike Waters worked closely with a non-secure client, **Destiney L.**, to facilitate an early release from custody. She has been successful since her return to the community and her behavior and attitude continue to improve daily.

PPO3 Nick Landry was recently assigned a new probation case. During the intake process it was discovered that the youth had not been enrolled in an educational setting since October 2011. Nick utilized his contacts at the Lafayette Parish School Board to assist the youth in enrolling in a home school program.

PPO Ben Guidry has only been with OJJ for approximately five months; however, his service to clients would make one feel he has been with the agency for many years. Keep up the good work!

PPO3 Chase Cappel organized a regional Parent Empowerment Network meeting at the Lafayette OJJ office in January, including guest speakers **RM Susan Miller** and **Robin Barry-Olivier, M.S., LPC**. Topics discussed were "How to Effectively Communicate with Youth/Parent/PO" and "Understanding the Juvenile Justice System." The topic for the next P.E.N. meeting will be "Talking to your Child, Not *at* our Child."

PPS Chris Potier successfully completed the Glock Armorer's Certification in January. Chris will now conduct the yearly weapon inspections for the Lafayette Region.

PPO George Hebert and **PPO Kenneth Stewart** were true team players by volunteering to handle a transport to St. Bernard Detention, following court in the 16th JDC St. Martin. Court did not end until late one evening and George and Kenneth had to

go from St. Martin to St. James to St. Bernard Detention Center - this after court started at 9:00 a.m. that morning. The transport was a success and both officers show their teamwork and commitment even during the tough times. Thanks for all you do!

The Lafayette Regional staff celebrated the Saints by having a tailgate party in January. Staff brought special treats including boudin, cracklins, king cake, doughnuts, cheese and crackers, meatballs and sausage. Staff members in the office for the day were allowed to wear their favorite Saints shirts.

PPO Denis Lacroix went to a Boy Scout Badge Ceremony to support a client and see him receive his badge. Having officers that show personal support to the youth we serve continues to be one of the great things about OJJ and our staff.

Carey H., who was in OJJ custody from 2008 to 2011, left for the Army in January. He will complete basic training in Georgia. The training should come easier for him as he also completed the Youth Challenge Program in April 2011. Kudos to **PPS Tracy Flores** for the work and support she gave to this youth while he was in custody and she was his supervising officer. Tracy definitely had a hand in this success story.

Lake Charles Regional Office

PPS Ken Vidrine demonstrated great leadership in January, acting as RM Ann Vick's designee. Thank you, Ken!

Client **Rebecca L.**, who was supervised by **PPO Rebecca Harmon**, received her GED through the Youth Challenge Program. Further, Rebecca voluntarily attended the YCP Graduation on a Saturday in January. Rebecca also served as a YCP Mentor. After the graduation, Rebecca provided transportation assistance to another OJJ youth, who had no family in attendance and no means of getting home to his residence after his graduation.

PPO Stefanie Krygowski frequently volunteers her time to assist in the trainings of other offices, and she has given many hours of work time to meet the needs of her most challenging clients. Stefanie recently worked well past quitting time to address and meet the needs of a young man in her caseload. She has an incredible work ethic.

Lake Charles PPOs planned a special trip to Jetson on Friday, January 13th. **PPO Ronald Gilchrist, PPO Jeff Haley, PPO Rebecca Harmon** and **PPO Fred Fontenot** agreed to flex their work schedules and planned to work late so that they could participate in a Basketball Challenge with our youth at JCY. However, this great plan was ultimately canceled due to circumstances beyond our control. But kudos to those who remain creative and make the effort to meet our kids in nontraditional ways!

Thank you to **PPO Monet Newman** for being thoughtful and providing the office with some snacks, as a "just because."

To celebrate the Valentine's holiday and improve office morale, several employees (**PPS Melissa Cross, PPO Stefanie Krygowski** and **PPO Delisa Clark**) initiated "Curious Cupid" to inspire some thoughtfulness and generate little Valentine's Day treats for fellow co-workers! The office was also surprised with some Valentine's Day breakfast buffet goodies!

Lake Charles OJJ prays for improvements in health and for continued health for all our employees. December, January, and February were challenging months for the medical concerns of some of our employees and their families. God bless all those who need blessings.

The Stork indicated he will soon be visiting Lake Charles OJJ to deliver some beloved and anxiously-awaited new babies:

PPO Jeff Haley is expecting his second son sometime around July 3.

PPS Ken Vidrine is expecting his second granddaughter sometime around April 26.

PPO Rebecca Harmon is expecting her first grandbaby this Spring/Summer! The youngest and cutest "Gigi" ever!

Happy First Birthday to **Major Anthony Chambers**, son of **PPO Garrick Chambers**. Major had a very "manly" first birthday dinner!

Community Volunteerism

PPO Stefanie Krygowski recently participated in a Martin Luther King community service project with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority in Lake Charles. LA.



Stefanie, left, with her sorority sisters.

PPO Jeff Haley continues to serve a major role in his community by volunteering his time to civic organizations. This service has required extensive memorization of history and important facts. It requires a lot of his free time. But, Jeff has become an accomplished member of his community organization.



In mid-January, we experienced a small fire outside of the OJJ building (in the flowerbed). Thanks to **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** and **PPO Jeff Haley** for

grabbing and properly using the fire extinguisher. All staff responded well. No injury or property damage resulted. Our fire drills have paid off!

Also in January, Lake Charles OJJ welcomed a surprise visit from **DAS Carolyn Lewis**. She was able to visit the Methodist Children's Home (Sulphur location) and witness an office busy at work in the field!

PPO Garrick Chambers was successful in encouraging a CNF (Custody Non-secure FINS) female to enroll in the Youth Challenge Program, which facilitated one less CNF young lady in custody. Garrick continues to make many YCP referrals and is successful in motivating youth to attend.

PPO Fred Fontenot has been very successful in getting many kids interested in attending YCP and preventing OJJ custody commitments. Further, in January, **PPO Angie Stevens** and **PPO Jeff Haley** encouraged more youth to interview and one young lady and one CNF young man entered YCP in February, also preventing out-of-home placement and terminating a FINS placement. Good work, y'all!

Thank you to **PPO Delisa Clark**, **Program Specialist Karli Pullard** and **Social Worker Claude Deville** of Lafayette OJJ for presenting a day-long, well-organized, mental health training, and for providing great snacks!



Camellia "Debutante" in Port Hudson.

Monroe Regional Office

Monroe OJJ completed the annual 8 hour Firearms Classroom Training in January. Firearms Instructors **Jennifer Bible**, **Karl Wallace** and **Joel McNair** conducted the class. Thanks for a good job!

PPS Karl Wallace and **PPO3 Joel McNair** attended a Glock Armorer Course in New Iberia.

PPO3 Erica Hollingsworth attended the 2012 ORM Regional Conference in Bossier City.

Monroe OJJ held a wedding shower for **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle** and **PPO2 Jeremy Keyes**.

Cheryl enjoyed receiving gifts from their gift registry and Jeremy was thrilled with his charcoal grill. Hey y'all, when can we all come for supper?

PPO2 Jeremy Keyes and **PPO2 Cheryl Pringle** were married on January 28. Mr. and Mrs. Keyes celebrated with a 7 day cruise. Congratulations to two of our favorite people.



Jeremy Keyes and Cheryl Pringle are given a grill at their wedding shower.

Natchitoches Regional Office



**Employee of the Month
PPO2 Brenda Sarpy**

Community involvement

Judge Dee A. Hawthorne spoke to the members of Kiwanis Club in Natchitoches about the Drug Court program in place to help at risk youth of OJJ. Pictured below is the entire Drug Court Team. Judge Hawthorne is in the center.



RM Randall Hill cooked chili for the annual Minden St. Jude's Auction at the Minden Civic Center in February, pictured below.





PPS Kristen McComic attended the Krewe of Iris Carnation and Ball held at the Hilton Riverside in New Orleans in January. Pictured above is **Mrs. Martha Ellard, Kristen's mother**, who was one of the maids.

PPS Simon Sarpy and his wife **Frances**, below, attended a Mardi Gras Ball with a western theme held at the Alexandria City Hall.



SSW5 Nelda Graham attended a Martin Luther King birthday celebration at First Baptist Church of Natchitoches, along with **Kenny Cox**.



RM Randall Hill, PPS Kristen McComic and several PPOs attended Ware Youth Center's Open House.

AC4 Rosa Brownlee and her children have been very busy. They are serving as a host family to an exchange student from Brazil, below.



From left: Bryan Brownlee, Anthony Brownlee and Patrick C.

Rosa also provided gifts to six needy families in the community that were unable to purchase Christmas gifts.

To top it off, Rosa and her children are volunteers with the Flatwoods Volunteer Fire Department. They enjoyed participating in Taylor Hill and Flatwoods Christmas parades. Rosa drove the fire engine in the Flatwoods Christmas parade.



Juniors at the Taylor Hill parade.

New Orleans/Jefferson Regional Office

Employee of the Month



Achievements are special and must be given due recognition and appreciation. We are honored and privileged to say congratulations to **PPO3 Dorothy Crump** for being named **Employee of the Month** for January. Dorothy's performance exemplifies her values of hard work, sincerity and diligence for the youth in Region 1.

Congratulations on a Huge Success

Congratulations go out again to **Jonathan M.** Jonathan made the November issue of *The Inside Scoop* for obtaining his GED. At that time he was taking a driver's education class and his desire was to complete the course and obtain his license. We are proud to announce that Jonathan completed his goal and was blessed by his guardian with a car.



Jonathan now drives his Mercedes Benz to Nunez College in Chalmette where he is studying Industrial Technology in a two-year program. Once he completes this goal, he will pursue a job at Murphy Oil as a petroleum

technician. Jonathan reported that his starting pay will be \$60,000 a year! Jonathan continues to work two jobs and is flourishing. He is indeed a success story and living proof of how important it is to dream big. This young man is focused and goal oriented. The sky is indeed the limit!

YEP Participate in ML King Activities



Youth Empowerment Staff participated in the M. L. King Jr. Activities by assisting with lining up marching bands and groups. YEP staff met with all participants of the afterschool program that were going to participate in the march and parade.

We also asked other participants to wear their YEP summer camp shirts on the day of the parade to support the other YEP participants in the program. Additionally, YEP senior staff **August Collins** participated in a panel discussion held at SUNO focusing on solutions to address the crime problem in the city. He was on the planning committee and a major contributor to the initial discussion. Mr. Collins has also represented YEP on several other committees focused on crime in the city.



Daffodils bloom in Port Hudson.

Shreveport Regional Office

Congratulations

Employee of the Month is PPO3 Kristen McKee.

Program Specialists Monique Lacour, Jan Crain, Karli L. Pullard, Joseph Powe, Paulette Carter and Program Manager Melba Oubre trained the Shreveport OJJ staff on Placement Training in January.

PPO3 Todd Carlisle attended Family Night at the Goodwill reintegration program in January. Guest speaker was Lee Jeter from the Fuller Center for Housing of Northwest Louisiana, a faith-driven and Christ-centered nonprofit corporation that provides housing for families in poverty.

RM Kristi Martin, PPO3 Todd Carlisle, PPO1 Ciera Mu, PPO2 Alan Glover, PPO3 Jennifer Hill, PPO1 Jason Brown, PPO1 Cornealious McSwain, PPO1 Atejia Glover and PPO3 Dwain Wilemon attended the Swanson staffing at Swanson in January.

Swanson Center for Youth

Employees of the Month

The Staff Development team, Training Specialists Delbert Blunt and James Woods, recently began recognizing staff for going above and beyond.

Each month, supervisors nominate staff they would like to see recognized. Employees of the month are awarded with a certificate and their picture on the "Spotlight" board at the Front Gate.

January's employees of the month are:

JJS2 Timothy Miller for Going the Extra Mile



JJS 2 Bertha Augustus for Embracing the Circle of Treatment; Bertha with JJS Detrick Massey.

Instructor Dean Friery, cited for Outstanding Work for Youth College Participation. Dean with Asst. Principal Victor Cooper.



Instructor Bobby Moffett for Outstanding Work with Habitat for Humanity. Instructor Bobby Moffett and Asst. Principal Victor Cooper.



Instructor Larry Prater for Outstanding Work with Quarterly Staffings. Instructor Larry Prater and Asst. Principal Victor Cooper.

Also, staff recognized for the year 2011 were:



JJS Lynell Williams and JJS Kevin Jackson.



SSC Charles Kline and Program Manager Dan Williams.

New Beginnings – SCY Staff Steps up to Help a Youth Succeed

Youth Kyle R. was released from Swanson and went straight to his dorm room at Louisiana State University at Eunice. **Social Service Counselor Dalyse Janiszcak** spent countless hours to ensure that Kyle was set for college. Ms. "J" worked with Kyle's probation officers and LSU-E staff to get everything lined up, such as enrollment, housing, meal plan, etc. Because the financial aid process takes time, we had to rely on donations for rent, meals and everything a young man needs to start college. Lake Charles OJJ received approval for \$215 to go toward his housing deposit.



Youth Kyle R. with SSC Dalyse Janiszcak, known as "Ms. J."

Kyle's Swanson family stepped up to make sure he was taken care of. SCY staff donated approximately \$550 in cash and just about everything a young man needs to start college, such as clothes, shoes, hygiene items, linens, school supplies, and he even got his own coffee pot! Thanks so much to everyone who played a part in helping Kyle.

"My Future Shines Bright"

By Youth Tyler T.

If someone were to ask me "What do you want to do with your life, and what career have you chosen?" My response would be that I want to make a difference, and I'm going to be a journalist.

My plan is when I get out, I'm going to a community college for two years, and then transfer to a university. I want to major in Communication and Journalism. I want to be an inspiration for my fellow men and women, and for future generations to come. I don't want to be just anybody.

I don't want to be the kind of person, that when I walk into town people start locking their doors and bringing in their children and then the children start asking, "Who's that man?" and their mothers' reply is "He's just no good, and I don't want you around him." I want to be the person that when I walk into town people open their doors and the children

surround me, and the parents beg me to talk to them, and I embrace them with encouragement and wisdom.

I don't want to be a hustler. I want to be a positive male figure, and a glimmer of hope to all, showing that there is a way to make it.

I know that there will be hard times, but we walk by faith and not by sight. I believe in the One who died to save us all. I believe that nothing is impossible and that with GOD everything is possible. I know that it's going to be hard, but I am a child of God, and my future shines bright.

Tallulah Regional Office

Tallulah OJJ enjoyed the Christmas season with pumpkins decorated by our own **PPO Supervisor Margo Corulla** and **PPO3 Kim Green**. Margo decided to extend the life and season of the pumpkins from Thanksgiving by painting and decorating them for Christmas. Kim added her decorating touch by painting one of the pumpkins and adding a red and green boa wrap.



After the Christmas season, Margo and Kim decided to decorate once again for the Mardi Gras season. Fresh

coats of green and gold paint were applied along with some fancy head dress and beads. All of the staff enjoyed having the pumpkins in our kitchen break room throughout the seasons. To everyone's surprise, the pumpkins are still in great shape. Our thanks to Margo and Kim for adding some office cheer.



AC3 Martha Hattaway shares this picture of an aquarium at the Botanical Gardens in Fort Worth. She says the bright blue fish looks like "Dory" from the Disney movie "Finding Nemo."

Thibodaux Regional Office

Congratulations

PPO Jeff Barrilleaux was **Employee of the Month** for February. He is a valuable asset to our team here in Thibodaux.

Community Involvement

BTNEP - Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program

The 1ST Annual Bayou Lafourche Clean Up Project is currently in the making. The event consists of several teams of volunteers who will put forth their energy in cleaning up 106 miles of Bayou Lafourche, a very viable resource of water supply for thousands of citizens in Lafourche and Assumption Parishes. Meetings have been held and team captains have been chosen. In preparation of informing the public, volunteers gathered at the Nicholls State University Century Room (underneath NSU football stadium, pictured below) in January and put together a booklet of information regarding the upcoming event.

The Thibodaux OJJ office team consists of the following volunteers: **PPS Robert Duet (who initiated the idea of assisting BTNEP with**

the 1st Annual Bayou Lafourche Clean Up), PPO James Percle, PPO Keith Kotoski, PPO Rachel Loupe, PPO Heidi McElroy, and PPO Allison Lirette.

The event will take place on Saturday, March 31.



PPO Allison Lirette, brought along **her daughter, Alaina**, and her friend to help out with sending out mailers to 5,000 residents along Bayou Lafourche. It turned out to be a fun day. We also enjoyed eating lunch on the football field.

Excitingly, there has been an overwhelming response of people wanting to volunteer for this event. We will continue to keep you posted....more pictures and information to follow in next month's Scoop.



Camellia "Rubra" in Port Hudson.



BCCY Culinary Arts & Occupations



Chef Ronald J. Sonnier, CEC

Recipe of the Month

Where is the time going? It seems like we just celebrated Christmas and New Year's and now Valentine's Day and Mardi Gras have flown by. Things in Culinary Arts have been on the move - we have been helping the cafeteria with all the chopping, learning knife skills, and also preparing desserts and even some of the main entrée's for the student's lunches.

I celebrated a birthday recently and one of the students, **Joseph W.**, made me a birthday cake and did a great job with the decorating. It also tasted great. He is the lead student in the class and helps in keeping me organized.

We also prepared an Employee Appreciation Luncheon and served it in the Culinary Arts dining room. Everyone who attended was very pleased with the food and presentation. The students were excited to learn how to make a great big 10 gallon pot of jambalaya, bake homemade bread and desserts and all the trimmings to make a great meal. The meal and fellowship between the employees was really a great break from our daily routine at work.



Left, Culinary Arts student Joseph W. shows off the cake he made for Chef Sonnier's Birthday. Right, the serving line for the Employee Appreciation Luncheon included, from left, Ms. C. Jones, Ms. D. Willis, Asst. Director Ricky Wright, Director Namon Reid, Ms. V. George and Food Service Manager P. Llopis.

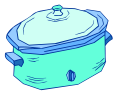
Mexican Skillet Chicken Delicioso

Serves 6 to 8

- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 10 ¾ oz can cream of chicken soup
- 1 4 oz. can diced and peeled green chilies
- 1 large diced onion
- 2 ½ cups cooked, diced chicken (white or dark, whichever you prefer)
- 2 6 oz. pkgs. Martha White yellow corn bread mix
- 1 cup grated cheddar cheese
- 2 cups corn tortilla chips, slightly broken
- 1 cup grated Monterey Jack cheese with jalapenos

Directions

Preheat oven to 400°. Grease large cast iron skillet. Combine sour cream, soup, chilies, onions and chicken. Make cornbread batter with milk following the instruction on the package. Add grated cheddar cheese to the batter. Cover the bottom of the skillet with the broken chips. Sprinkle the grated Monterey Jack cheese over the chips. Spread the sour cream and chicken mixture over the cheese and chips. Carefully spread the cornbread batter over the chicken layer. Bake at 400° for 25 to 30 minutes or until golden brown.



Sonnier's Creamy Italian Crock-Pot Chicken

Serves 4 to 6

- 2 lbs. boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- ¼ cup butter or margarine, melted
- 4 oz. of a 8 oz. tub of cream cheese and chives
- 1 10 ¾ oz. can golden cream of mushroom soup
- 1 .07 oz package of Italian dressing mix
- ½ cup water or white wine (I prefer the white wine myself)
- Angel hair pasta

Directions

Cut chicken breasts into strips and put them into a crock pot. In a separate bowl, mix melted butter or margarine, cream cheese, soup and Italian dressing. Pour mixture over chicken strips and add in white wine or water. Cook on low for 6-7 hours. Serve over cooked angel hair pasta.



Allergies & Asthma



Allergies

Allergy is characterized by an overreaction of the human immune system to a foreign protein substance ("allergen") that is eaten, breathed into the lungs, injected or touched. This immune overreaction can result in symptoms such as coughing, sneezing, itchy eyes, runny nose and scratchy throat. In severe cases it can also result in rashes, hives, lower blood pressure, difficulty breathing, asthma attacks, and even death.

- * There are no cures for allergies. Allergies can be managed with proper prevention and treatment.
- * Allergies have a genetic component. If only one parent has allergies of any type, chances are 1 in 3 that each child will have an allergy. If both parents have allergies, it is much more likely (7 in 10) that their children will have allergies.
- * More Americans than ever before say they are suffering from allergies. It is among the country's most common, yet often overlooked, diseases.

Prevalence

- * Indoor and Outdoor Allergies – (Allergic rhinitis; seasonal/perennial allergies; hay fever; nasal allergies) Approximately 40 million Americans have indoor/outdoor allergies as their primary allergy. The most common indoor/outdoor allergy triggers are: tree, grass and weed pollen; mold spores; dust mite and cockroach allergen; and, cat, dog and rodent dander.
- * Skin Allergies – (Atopic dermatitis; eczema; hives; urticaria; contact allergies) Approximately 7% of allergy sufferers have skin allergies as their primary allergy. Plants such as poison ivy, oak and sumac are the most common skin allergy triggers. However, skin contact with cockroach and dust mite allergen, certain foods or latex may also trigger symptoms of skin allergy.
- * Food and Drug Allergies – Approximately 6% of allergy sufferers have food/drug allergies as their primary allergy. 90% of all food allergy reactions are caused by 8 foods: milk, soy, eggs, wheat, peanuts, tree nuts, fish and shellfish. For drug allergies, penicillin is the most common allergy trigger.
- * Latex Allergy – Approximately 4% of allergy sufferers have latex allergy as their primary allergy. An estimated 10% of healthcare workers suffer from latex allergy.

- * Insect Allergies – Approximately 4% of allergy sufferers have insect allergies as their primary allergy (bee/wasp stings and venomous ant bites; cockroach and dust mite allergen may also cause nasal or skin allergy symptoms.)
- * Eye Allergies – (Allergic conjunctivitis; ocular allergies) – Approximately 4% of allergy sufferers have eye allergies as their primary allergy, often caused by many of the same triggers as indoor/outdoor allergies.

Asthma

Asthma is characterized by inflammation of the air passages resulting in the temporary narrowing of the airways that transport air from the nose and mouth to the lungs. Asthma symptoms can be caused by allergens or irritants that are inhaled into the lungs, resulting in inflamed, clogged and constricted airways. Symptoms include difficulty breathing, wheezing, coughing tightness in the chest. In severe cases, asthma can be deadly.

- * There is no cure for asthma, but asthma can be managed with proper prevention and treatment.
- * Asthma has a genetic component. If only one parent has asthma, chances are 1 in 3 that each child will have asthma. If both parents have asthma, it is much more likely (7 in 10) that their children will have asthma.
- * More Americans than ever before say they are suffering from asthma. It is one of this country's most common and costly diseases.

Prevalence

- * An estimated 20 million Americans suffer from asthma (1 in 15 Americans), and 50% of asthma cases are "allergic-asthma." The prevalence of asthma has been increasing since the early 1980s across all age, sex and racial groups.
- * Asthma is more common among adult women than adult men.
- * Nearly 5 million asthma sufferers are under age 18. It is the most common chronic childhood disease, affecting more than one child in 20.
- * Asthma is slightly more prevalent among African Americans than Caucasians.
- * Ethnic differences in asthma prevalence, morbidity and mortality are highly correlated with poverty, urban air quality, indoor allergens, and lack of patient education and inadequate medical care.

Source: www.AAFA.org

Courtesy of Wellness Proposals

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is published monthly to communicate with and about OJJ staff in offices and facilities throughout the state, about agency activities, happenings and items of interest.

The Inside Scoop...of OJJ is produced by the Central Office with input from staff statewide.

...until next month

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